

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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21

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 210907Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2668

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0147

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE

1. TWO NEWS REPORTS ON ANGOLAN SITUATION SURFACED IN LUSAKA JAN 21 GIVING CAUSE FOR SERIOUS CONCERN ON PART OF ZAMBIA'S STATE HOUSE AND PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S CLOSEST ADVISERS. ONE INVOLVES A VOA BROADCAST BY IBS/PA STAFFER NIOKA WHITE HEARD HERE BETWEEN 8:30 AND 9:00 A.M. JAN 21 IMPLYING AN INITIATIVE BEING TAKEN IN ZAMBIA AMONG AFRICAN MODERATES FOR FORMATION OF A COALITION GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA WHICH WOULD BRING MPLA NETO AND UNITA SAVIMBI TOGETHER BUT EXCLUDE ROBERTO. WHITE ATTRIBUTES SOURCE OF THIS REPORT TO AN UNIDENTIFIED ZAMBIAN OFFICIAL. PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER MARK CHONA WAS AS STUNNED AS I WHEN I TALKED TO HIM AND SAID HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT IT. AS WE HAVE NO RECORD WHITE VISIT TO ZAMBIA IN RECENT MONTHS, ASSUME SOURCE HER INFORMATION IS ZAMBIAN OFFICIAL OUTSIDE COUNTRY WHO NOT WELL BRIEFED ON CURRENT GRZ THINKING RE ANGOLA OR UNCONFIRMED INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE REPORT (AFP?).

2. VOA BROADCAST WAS GIVEN IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO SUGGEST AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR SUCH A COALITION. WHITE REPORT SAID THIS KIND OF COALITION WAS PROBABLY WHAT SECY KISSINGER HAD IN MIND IN HIS JAN 14 PRESS INTERVIEW, ALSO, THAT WHEN STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WERE QUERIED, THEY HAD NO COMMENT OTHER THAN TO SAY US POLICY WAS ALWAYS FOR A COALITION GOVERNMENT.

3. FOLLOWING MY CONVERSATION WITH CHONA THIS MORNING, HE  
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CALLED BACK TO SAY PRESIDENT KAUNDA HIMSELF WAS DISTURBED

WITH FRONT PAGE ARTICLE IN JAN 20 TIMES OF ZAMBIA BASED ON UNIDENTIFIED WIRE SERVICE REPORT FROM COPENHAGEN HEADED "AMERICANS SEE FNLA AND UNITA DEFEAT". MOST STARTLING STATEMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

"COPENHAGEN, TUESDAY. UNITED STATES BACKED FNLA AND UNITA ARE HEADING FOR A CERTAIN DEFEAT IN THE ANGOLAN CONFLICT, AMERICAN OFFICIALS ADMITTED HERE TODAY. BUT THE OFFICIALS, ACCOMPANYING SECY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER TO MOSCOW FOR ARMS TALKS, SAID THE US WAS NOT YET RECONCILED WITH THE IDEA OF THAT DEFEAT. IN VIEW OF THE US SENATE'S REFUSAL TO APPROVE FUNDS FOR THE FNLA AND UNITA, THE OFFICIALS SAID THEY COULD SEE ONLY A REMOTE CHANCE OF ANY OTHER OUTCOME BUT THEIR DEFEAT BY THE SOVIET-BACKED MPLA."

ITEM FURTHER QUOTES OFFICIALS AS SAYING THEY HAVE LITTLE HOPE KREMLIN WILL ABANDON MPLA AND THAT THERE NO PRESSURE ON USSR TO PERSUADE MPLA TO NEGOTIATE IN VIEW US INABILITY CONTINUE ASSISTING MPLA'S RIVALS.

4. CHONA SAID KAUNDA SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION OF WHAT WAS SAID BY US OFFICIALS.

5. REPORTING OF THIS NATURE SOURCED TO VOA AND US OFFICIAL SOURCES HARDLY HELPFUL TO OUR CAUSE HERE. WE ASSUME NEWSPAPER REPORTERS HAVE TAKEN EXCESSIVE LIBERTY WITH STATEMENTS MADE BY MEMBERS OF SECY'S PARTY ENROUTE TO MOSCOW. ALTERNATIVELY, PRESS AND VOA MAY BE VICTIMS OF SOVIET DISINFORMATION EFFORT. IN EITHER CASE, WE MUST URGE DEPARTMENT AND VOA EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION IN SEEMING GIVE US OFFICIAL CREDENCE TO SUCH REPORTS OR TO EXPRESSIONS OF EXTREME NEGATIVISM ABOUT ABILITY OF ANTI-MPLA COALITION TO HOLD LINE. MEANWHILE, WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING URGENTLY FOR PASSING TO STATE HOUSE COMPLETE TRANSCRIPT OR OTHER CONFIRMATION OF WHAT ACTUALLY MAY HAVE BEEN SAID TO PRESS IN COPEHAGEN.  
WILKOWSKI

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS COMMENTS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT, ALLEGATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** saccheem  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <05 AUG 2004 by saccheem>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, ZA, AO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006